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## Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary

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will

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Main Entry: **1**will ❶

Pronunciation: w&amp;l, (&amp;)l, &amp;l, 'wil

Function: *verb*Inflected Form(s): *past would* ❷ /w&d, (&)d, 'wud/;*present singular & plural will*

Etymology: Middle English (1st & 3d sing. present indic.),  
from Old English *wille* (infinitive *wyllan*); akin to Old High  
German *wili* (3d singular present indicative) *wills*, Latin  
*velle* to wish, *will*

*transitive senses* : **DESIRE**, **WISH** <call it what you *will*>*verbal auxiliary*

1 -- used to express desire, choice, willingness, consent, or  
in negative constructions refusal <no one *would* take the  
job> <if we *will* all do our best> <*will* you please stop that  
racket>

2 -- used to express frequent, customary, or habitual action  
or natural tendency or disposition <*will* get angry over  
nothing> <*will* work one day and loaf the next>

3 -- used to express futurity <tomorrow morning I *will* wake  
up in this first-class hotel suite -- Tennessee Williams>

4 -- used to express capability or sufficiency <the back seat  
*will* hold three passengers>

5 -- used to express probability and often equivalent to the  
simple verb <that *will* be the milkman>

6 a -- used to express determination, insistence, persistence,  
or willfulness <I have made up my mind to go and go I

*will* > **w** -- used to express inevitability <accidents *will* happen>  
7 -- used to express a command, exhortation, or injunction  
<you *will* do as I say, at once>  
*intransitive senses* : to have a wish or desire <whether we *will* or no>  
**usage** see SHALL  
- **if you will** : if you wish to call it that <a kind of preoccupation, or obsession *if you will* -- Louis Auchincloss>

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